Application No.: 10/559,765

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A surface treatment agent comprising a fluoropolymer which has repeating units derived from a fluorine-containing monomer of the formula:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
O & X \\
 & \downarrow & \downarrow \\
 & C - C - C - C - C \\
\end{array}$$
(I)

wherein X is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, an iodine atom, a CFX^1X^2 group (in which X^1 and X^2 are each a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom), a cyano group, a linear or branched fluoroalkyl group having 1 to 21 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group;

Y is an aliphatic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aromatic or cycloaliphatic group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a $-CH_2CH_2N(R^1)SO_2$ - group (in which R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms) or a $-CH_2CH(OY^1)CH_2$ - group (in which Y^1 is a hydrogen atom or an acetyl group); and

Rf is a linear or branched perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroalkenyl group having 1 to 211 to 6 carbon atoms, or a fluoroether group having totally 1 to 200 repeating units selected from the group consisting of the repeating units: -C₃F₆O-, -C₂F₄O- and -CF₂O-, and wherein (a) the fluoropolymer contains a silicon atom, and/or (b) the surface treatment agent comprises the fluoropolymer (a first polymer) and a second polymer different from the first polymer, the second polymer being a silicon-containing polymer which contains a silicon atom.

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- 2. (previously presented): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing fluoropolymer comprises repeating units derived from fluorine-containing monomer and repeating units derived from silicon-containing monomer.
- 3. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 2, wherein the siliconcontaining monomer is represented by the formula:

$$A \xrightarrow{R^1} C \xrightarrow{C} CH_2$$
 (II)

wherein A is a monovalent group having at least one silicon atom, and R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

4. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 3, wherein the A group in the formula (II) is represented by the formula:

Rsi-X-

wherein Rsi is

$$R^{11}$$
-(Si(R^{12})₂)_p-, or

$$R^{11}$$
- $(Si(R^{12})_2$ - $O)_p$ -

(in which the R¹¹ group is a hydrogen atom, or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group or a C₆-C₈ aryl group; the R¹² groups may be the same or different, each of which is a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₈ hydrocarbon or halogenated hydrocarbon group optionally having a functional group; and p is a number of 1 to 100); and

X is a direct bond, $-(CH_2)_q$ - (in which q is a number of 1 to 20), $-(CH_2)_r$ -O- (in which r is a number of 0 to 20), or $-(CH_2)_s$ -OC(=O)- (in which s is a number of 0 to 20).

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5. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 2, wherein the silicon-containing fluoropolymer contains a fluorine-free and silicon-free monomer in addition to the fluorine-containing monomer and the silicon-containing monomer.

- 6. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 5, wherein, in the silicon-containing fluoropolymer, the amount of the silicon-containing monomer is from 0.01 to 50 parts by weight, and the amount of the fluorine-free and silicon-free monomer is 50 or less parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing monomer.
- 7. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing polymer as the second polymer different from the fluoropolymer is a siloxane polymer.
- 8. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 7, wherein the siloxane polymer is a compound of the formula:

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
R^{21} & R^{22} \\
 & & \\
Si - O \\
 & & \\
R^{22} & R^{23}
\end{array} (III)$$

wherein the R^{21} and R^{23} groups are each a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_8 hydrocarbon group (e.g., a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group or a C_6 - C_8 aryl group) or a functional group-containing group; the R^{22} groups may be the same or different, each of which is a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_8 hydrocarbon group, a C_1 - C_8 halogenated hydrocarbon group, or a functional group-containing group; and t is a number of 1 to 200.

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9. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the silicon-containing polymer as the second polymer is 0.01 to 50 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the fluoropolymer.

- 10. (canceled).
- 11. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, which is in the form of a solution, an emulsion or an aerosol.
 - 12. (canceled).
 - 13. (canceled).
- 14. (previously presented): A method for treating a substrate with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.
- 15. (previously presented): A textile treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.
- 16. (previously presented): A carpet treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.